



# SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release

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## **Governor Scott Walker Proclaims Disability Employment Awareness Month**

**Madison** – In addition to October's designation as Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker today proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. The proclamation will raise awareness of the role special needs workers have in the workplace.

"We should be striving to encourage employment for everyone who wants to work," Governor Walker said. "Our workers with special needs have much to offer their place of employment. They have talents, skills, and the desire to make a contribution in the workplace, and we need to make it easier for them to find employment."

During the fiscal last year, the Department of Workforce Development Vocational Rehabilitation Program helped 3,840 individuals find employment. There are eleven Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) offices across the state providing a wide range of services including career guidance and counseling, job search and placement assistance, transition to work services for students with disabilities, rehabilitation technology, and vocational training. The DVR also serves employers looking for training and technical assistance regarding disability employment issues.

On average, DVR works with 17,000 active job seekers with special needs. Each month, DVR averages 1,486 new applicants, provides 726 new Individualized Plans for Employment, and successfully closes 319 cases. For more information on the Department of Workforce Development's Vocational Rehabilitation Program, visit <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>.

A copy of the Governor's proclamation is attached.

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